

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 L-02 IO-03 EB-03 PRS-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 NSC-07 DODE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 DRC-01 /056 W
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O P 042145Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7251

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 2336

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ES, HO

SUBJECT: BATRES' COMMENTS ON HONDURAS/ SALVADOR PROBLEM

GUATEMALA ALSO FOR ROCAP

REF: SALVADOR 2192

1. SUMMARY. FONMIN BATRES RECOUNTS SEVERAL PROPOSALS TO KEEP JALAPA MEETING AND/OR BILATERAL TALKS WITH SALVADOR AFLOAT, ALL OF WHICH SALVADOR REPORTEDLY REJECTED. GOH FAVORS CONTINUED TALKS, AND FEARS THAT TENSIONS AND UNCERTAINTY WILL OTHERWISE SUPERSIDE IN REGION. BATRES SAYS THAT ABORTION OF JALAPA DOES NOT AUGUR WELL FOR CACM TALKS. HE HOPES OAS COMMITTEE OF SEVEN WILL RESTIMULATE DIRECT TALKS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN LENGTHY CHAT ON JUNE 4, FONMIN BATRES GAVE AMB AND DCM FOLLOWING DETAILS OF DEVELOPMENTS RE ABORTED JALAPA MEETING.

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3. ON MAY 21 GUATAMALAN FONMIN ARENALES VISITED BATRES AT TEGUCIAGALPA AIRPORT, AND INFORMED HIM THAT ARANA DID NOT WANT TO HAVE JALAPA MEETING, AND THAT MOLINA FELT SAME WAY. BATRES SUGGESTED AS ALTERNATIVE, THAT MEETING BE POSTPONED IN FAVOR OF SECRET MEETING OF FONMINS, TO ARRANGE TERMS, AGENDA, ETC. BOTH COSTA RICA AND NICARAGUA REJECTED THIS, DESIRING JALAPA REUNION OF CHIEFS OF STATE.

4. MEANTIME, SOMOZA BEGAN HIS TRIPS TOMUONDURAS AND SALVADOR WITH "WORKING PAPERS". BATRES SAID THAT THE GOH DID NOT FIND THESE PARTICULARLY ACCEPTABLE, SINCE THEY PREORDAINED RIGID FINAL RESULTS. INSTEAD, BATRES WENT TO SAN JOSE, AND PROPOSED THAT MEETING BE STRUCTURED IN ADVANCE AS INFORMAL AND PRELIMINARY EXCHANGE OF VIEWS, AND THAT ALL PARTIES ADJUST THEIR PREPARATORY PUBLIC STATEMENTS TO ASSERT THAT NOTHING MORE WAS EXPECTED OF IT. SOMOZA THEN RETURNED TO GOH WITH FINAL PROPOSAL OF MOLINA, WHICH AGAIN WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO GOH. MOLINA STATED THAT IDEA OF UNSTRUCTURED MEETING WHICH DID NOT SHOW RESULTS WAS UNDESIRABLE AND STATED HE WOULD NOT ATTEND THAT KIND OF SESSION.

5. AT SOMOZA'S SURGING, BORGONOVO AND BATRES THEN REPAIRED TO NICARAGUA TO CO-DRAFT BLAND COMMUNIQUE EXPLAINING DENOUEMENT. BATRES TOLD BORGONOVO THAT ABORTION OF SUMMIT WOULD INEVITABLY BE TAKEN AS MAJOR FAILURE, WHICH WOULD CAUSE NEW TENSIONS AND FEARS IN REGION. TO AVOID THIS, BATRES PROPOSED JOINT STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT MOLINA AND GENERAL LOPEZ WHICH A) PROMISED TO SOLVE PROBLEM BY PEACEFUL MEANS; B) ANNOUNCED DECISION TO RENEW DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS.

6. BORGONOVO REPORTEDLY REPLIED THAT HE HAD COME ONLY TO DRAFT COMMUNIQUE RE JALAPA, AND COULD NOT CONSIDER THIS PROPOSAL. SOMOZA THEREUPON DRESSED BORGONOVO DOWN IN PRESENCE OF BATRES, AMB SEVILLA-SACASA, AND NICARAGUAN FONMIN. SOMOZA SAID HONDURAS HAD GIVEN CONSISTENT INDICATION OF ITS DESIRES TO SOLVE PROBLEM, WHEREAS SALVADOR HAD REPEATEDLY SABOTAGED SUMMIT, FIRST DESIRING POSTPONEMENT ALLEGEDLY BECAUSE OF ELECTIONS, BUT AFTER ELECTIONS FINDING NEW PRETEXTS NOT TO ATTEND. ACCORDING TO BATRES BORGONOVO DID NOT REPLY TO THIS.

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7. IN PRIVATE MANAGUA SESSION, BORGONOVO ASKED BATRES WHAT THE REAL PROBLEM WAS, AND BATRES REPLIED THAT GOH WOULD NOT MAKE ADVANCE CONCESSIONS SUCH AS OPENING HIGHWAY, BECAUSE IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT GOES WOULD MERELY CONTINUE TO RESIST BORDER DEMARCATION.

8. AT THIS POINT MEMBER OF SALVADORAN TEAM (TRIGUEROS?) PROPOSED SECRET TALKS, ONLY ABOUT THE BORDER. BATRES POINTED

OUT THAT GOES HAD NOT WANTED TO TALK ABOUT BORDER IN MEXICO. TRIGUEROS EMPHASIZED THEY SHOULD BE SECRET, AND DIRECTED TO EXAMINATION OF ARGUMENTS OF BOTH SIDES, I.E.E. DOCUMENTS FOR HONDURAS AND "POSITIONS" FOR SALVADOR. BATRES AGREED, BUT TRIED TO GET SALVADORANS AND HIMSELF TO DRAFT UP PROPOSAL IN WRITING. THIS SALVADORANS REFUSED TO DO, SAYING PROPOSAL HAD NO AUTHORIZATION AND WAS INFORMAL. BORGONOVO SAID PERHAPS SECRET MEETING WOULD BE IN MIAMI, AND SAID HE WOULD PHONE BATRES WITH ACCEPTANCE. BATRES SAID THAT WAS EIGHT DAYS AGO, AND HE HAS HEARD NOTHING.

9. BATRES ALSO REPROACHED BORGONOVO WITH WANTING TO EXPAND AREA OF CONTROVERSY, BY IN EFFECT REPUDIATING ANTIGUA DOCUMENT. BORGONOVO DENIED REJECTION OF ANTIGUA PAPER, AND SAID GOES FOR APPEARANCES SAKE HAD TO SAY IT COULD ACCEPT ONLY AGREEMENT ON FULL LIME.

10. BATRES COMMENTED ON SITUATION, BY SAYING THAT ESSENTIAL FACT WAS THAT SALVADORANS DID NOT WANT TO DISCUSS BORDER. THE VARIOUS PRETEXTS TO AVOID THIS WHICH THEY INVENTED FROM ONE OCCASION TO NEXT WERE UNIMPORTANT, IN JANUARY THEY HAD INDICATED TO COMMITTEE OF SEVEN THAT NEW TALKS WOULD BE SUITABLE AFTER THEIR MARCH ELECTIONS; IN MARCH THEY INDICATED AFTER JALAPA MEETING. IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO HEAR WHAT THEY WOULD SAY IN COMMITTEE OF SEVEN THIS WEEK. BATRES HOPED COMMITTEE WOULD RESTIMULATE TALKS.

11. IN REPLY TO QUESTION, BATRES SAID GOH NO LONGER HAD ANY INTEREST IN HAVING COMMITTEE OF SEVEN SENDING INVESTIGATORY COMMISSION, SUCH GROUP WOULD BE USELESS, BUT COULD OF COURSE "COME IF THEY WANT TO." HE SAID THAT GOH REQUEST WAS PURELY REACTIVE TO BORGONOVO'S "PROPAGANDA" ICOMPLAINT ABOUT WHAT IN REALITY WERE NON-EXISTENT INCIDENTS ON THE BORDER.
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12. BATRES REEMPHASIZED NEED FOR TWO SIDES TO CONTINUE TALKING. BREAK-OFF FROM CONTACTS WOULD ONLY FEED RUMORS AND CREATE UNREST. BUT HE WAS SKEPTICAL OF SALVADOR'S INTEREST IN TALKS, AND FEARED THAT LATEST "PROPOSAL WHICH WASN'T A PROPOSAL," WAS JUST ANOTHER DIVERSIONARY TACTIC. JALAPA OUTCOME HAD ALSO DAMAGED PROSPECTS OF CACM TALKS, BECAUSE IN ABSENCE OF DISCOURSE BETWEEN CHIEFS OF STATE, HIGH LEVEL COMMITTEE TALKS ON CACM WERE ONLY "THEORIZING." REFERRING TO NUMEROUS RUMORS THAT JALAPA BLOWUP HAD CREATED "PRE-WAR SITUATION", BATRES SAID HE HAD GIVEN MARATHON INTERVIEWS TO JOURNALISTS YESTERDAY TO CALM THINGS DOWN.
(BEING REPORTED SEPTTEL.)
SANCHEZ

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